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The 70th Canadian Tulip Festival starts Friday. Over one million tulips are on display in the city, marking the friendship between Netherlands and Canada forged during World War II. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Showdown over sick leave

LABOUR

Public-service union blasts bill as attack on rights



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

The Conservative government is giving itself the power in its sweeping new omnibus budget bill to toss aside provisions of the Public Service Labour Relations Act and unilaterally make changes to public servants' sick leave.

But the union that represents federal public servants, which has long been opposed to such changes, says the budget legislation is an attack on the bureaucracy.

Bill C-59, tabled Thurs-



**The government
has decided
to completely
throw out any
pretense that it
intends to respect
the collective
bargaining rights
of its workers.**

Robyn Benson, Public
Service Alliance of Canada

day in Parliament, would let Treasury Board President Tony Clement unilaterally change the terms and conditions of sick leave in the public service and create a new short-term disability program.

The controversial changes were first introduced in the April 21 budget.

The budget bill also includes a provision that would allow the Treasury Board to modify the number of hours of sick leave an employee is entitled to and the maximum number of hours of unused sick leave an employee can carry over to the next fiscal year.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada said the bill is worded to skirt the Public Service Labour Relations Act as well as ongoing negotiations with the federal government.

"This attack on our members' rights will seriously harm public services by forcing people to go to work sick and cause irreparable damage to labour relations," said Robyn Benson, the union's national president.

"We will take every available action in our power to challenge the legislation."

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Drone crashes into Barrhaven woman's house, damages siding

DISPUTE

Resident wants operator to replace entire back wall



Lucy Scholey
Metro|Ottawa

Forget old-fashioned neighbourhood disputes over loud dogs or unkempt bushes. Two Barrhaven neighbours are buzzing after one of them crashed a drone into the side of the other's house last month.

Jennifer Pigeon said the ordeal has left her shaken and seeking a siding fix. She describes the loud bang she heard while in her front yard on April 18.

"I don't know if it shook the house, but it definitely was a really loud crash," she said.

It was a windy day and, think-

ing the gazebo or fence blew over, she walked around to the back of her house. That's when she heard a beeping sound, which led her to a drone laying on the ground by the fence. It was about 12-inches in diameter.

"It's not huge. It was like a helicopter. It had four little propellers," she said. A camera also flew off the drone, she said.

The small aircraft had hit the second storey of her house and left behind a couple of black marks and holes in the siding, according to photos Pigeon sent Metro.

The operator, a fellow Barrhaven resident named Mark Doyle, followed the beeping sound of his flyaway aircraft to Pigeon's house. She said Doyle apologized and offered to fix the siding.

When reached by Metro, Doyle declined to comment.

Pigeon said Doyle did hire a contractor to do the work and

provide an estimate. However, because her house is 10 years old, the siding colour and pattern are no longer available. The contractor brought a similarly coloured siding and installed it, but it does not quite match.

Pigeon said she's now looking to have Doyle replace the entire back siding, but he's refusing to pay for the costs. Pigeon said she has also notified Transport Canada.

"It was a really dangerous thing that happened and it could have led to more serious injuries," she said.

This is the second time someone in Barrhaven has

complained about a drone in the area. Scott Gorry said he has been "disturbed" by an unknown person flying a drone near his property.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson

has said the mini aircraft are a problem that's "going to get bigger" as more people access home-building drone kits.

"It's uncharted water — or

airspace — so I'm not really sure if we would have that jurisdiction. My understanding is that anything in the air falls under Transport Canada," Watson said earlier this week, noting that he's concerned about privacy issues or a malfunctioning drone dropping on an unsuspecting passerby. Drones are regulated

through Transport Canada. Operators are prohibited from flying the machines closer than 150 metres from people, vehicles or buildings.



METRO FILE



The drone, pictured left, that Jennifer Pigeon says crashed into her Barrhaven home. The damage it left on the siding, pictured right, has led to a dispute with the operator. CONTRIBUTED

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WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

FIFA reveals local turfs

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

With less than a month until elite soccer athletes kick off in Canada, the FIFA Women's World Cup announced training turf locations across the country on Thursday — including in Ottawa.

Athletes will be dribbling a few warm-up rounds at Algonquin College, the Richcraft Recreation Complex at 4101 Innovation Dr. and Wesley Clover Parks at 401 Corkstown Rd.

Those fields will be outfitted with high quality "football turf" that will still serve as the padding beneath soccer cleats after FIFA is over.

A number of prominent women's soccer players had urged FIFA to install natural grass for games instead of artificial turf, which some athletes say is hard on their joints, and they went as far as filing a complaint last year with Ontario's Human Rights Tribunal. But the players subsequently dropped their fight and accepted the games will be played on turf. Legacies for Canada is bringing in three artificial training pitches to host Canadian cities, including Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montreal, Moncton and Ottawa.

You might be able to sneak a peek of some of the players practicing, as some training sites will be open, depending on the team.

The FIFA Women's World Cup kicks off on June 6 in Edmonton. Canada will play China first and then New Zealand will face off against the Netherlands.

Ottawa is hosting its first match at Lansdowne Park on June 7. Norway will take on Thailand, then Germany meets Côte d'Ivoire. Organizers say matches are selling out with more than 1.5 million spectators expected at games across the country.

Neighbours remember avid gardener Emma Robe

COMMUNITY

Hintonburg resident known for teacup garden

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

While most people in Ottawa will be enjoying the iconic tulip festival as it kicks off this weekend, a group of residents in Hintonburg will be remem-

bering a very different kind of garden.

Friends of Emma Robe, who passed away last month at the age of 69, will be gathering at her beloved Tea Cup Gardens on Saturday to remember a woman one friend described as "knowledgeable, kind and just interested in life."

Robe was best known for her unusual garden at 123 Sterling Street, a place where plants grew beside garden knickknacks and underneath a variety of hanging tea cups.

She was a passionate gardener, and during the 15 years she worked on the garden it became



It's spring time now and it's really tough, because you know she'd be out there talking about what you've got in your garden.

Mimi Golding

a fixture in the community.

"It was just a joy for the neighbours to pass by because it was out of the ordinary," said her friend and Hintonburg resident Mimi Golding. "If Emma were alive, it would be bouncing right now."

The corner on Sterling was once a highlight in a neighbourhood that was very different

from the trendy downtown area.

"When Hintonburg was undergoing its challenges, it was a wonderful bright spot," said Kitchissippi Coun. Jeff Leiper.

"She was a fixture in our community and just a wonderful person."

With Leiper's help, friends have organized an event on

Saturday to share stories and memories of Robe and her garden.

She was well known for the teacups but also for her constant presence at community events.

"She was everywhere. You would see her walking down the street with her walking stick or she'd be out in the garden or at the library. She was everywhere. And very special," said Golding.

"It's spring time now and it's really tough, because you know she'd be out there talking about what you've got in your garden. I expect Saturday will be nice and sunny, and Emma would have appreciated that."



GOVERNMENT TAMPON TAX PETITION Lele Truong, Lareen Jervis and Mariana Hollmann take part in a news conference and petition on Parliament Hill on Thursday, calling on the federal government to remove tax on feminine hygiene products. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BRICK BY BRICK PRESERVING THE PAST Mayor Jim Watson, left, and Coun. Mathieu Fleury lay bricks at the Charles Ogilvy building at the Rideau Centre Thursday with architect Barry Padolsky, right. Over the next few months, construction crews will reinstate the facade of the heritage building, which is part of a \$360-million redevelopment project. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Kids love this library

EDUCATION

Students can borrow people, instead of books



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Barrhaven Public School is ditching the books and trying a new form of learning for Ontario Education Week — an interactive human library.

Instead of taking out a book to learn about a topic, readers in a human library “borrow” a real live person to learn from and ask questions.

Vice-principal Stephanie Borrens said it’s been a hit with kids and teachers.

“It’s great because they’re actually putting a face to it, they bring a lot of visuals usually and the kids can ask questions along the way to clear up their understanding,” said Borrens.

“The kids have really been

enjoying it a lot.”

Borrens said she was inspired by how popular similar “human libraries” have been at the Ottawa Library. Topics there are considerably edgier and include a former addict, PTSD survivor and sex worker.

The topics on offer for the school’s kindergarten to grade 4 students run a little lighter, including a woman who breeds golden retrievers, a female electrical engineer, Paralympic athletes and a graphic designer with a 3D printer.

The program has been running for three years.

“It just opens up the door for so many children to hear different things being talked about,” Borrens said.



It just opens up the door for so many children ...

Stephanie Borrens,
vice-principal

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Suspended Senator Mike Duffy arrives at the courthouse Thursday in Ottawa. Duffy's defence team argues the Senate failed to clearly define prohibited travel to political events, which his lawyers say he attended on official senate business. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Restrictions on travel to political events not explicit, defence says

COURT

Duffy travel no different from other Tories, lawyer adds

There's a two-step dance that parliamentarians learn so they can piggyback political events onto taxpayer-paid trips — were Sen. Mike Duffy's waltzes across the country at the behest of his colleagues any different?

That's one of the questions

crystallizing now that Duffy's trial has begun to hear from his former Conservative caucus mates.

He's pleaded not guilty to 31 counts of fraud, breach of trust and bribery, with more than half of those charges related to trips he billed to the Senate.

The Crown says Duffy was attending political events, and not dealing with Senate business.

Duffy appears to have a two-track defence. He argues the Senate never explicitly prohibited travel to political events in its rules and that

he was, in fact, doing official business while on these trips.

The latter argument is key, because it matches what the prime minister himself along with other ministers, MPs, senators all do on a regular basis — they fly to an official event and then tack on political stuff.

British Columbia Conservative MP Ron Cannan, who testified Thursday at the trial, explained the scenario when talking to reporters outside the courtroom.

"I was in city council for nine years, and we had a really good senator, Liberal senator Ross Fitzpatrick, and he used to bring senators in, they might meet with mayor and council for an hour and whatever they did afterwards, if they went to his winery and toured and played golf, they could incorporate that," Cannan said.

Duffy was on a swing through the province and the Yukon, attending Conservative

events with other MPs and senators.

Duffy's daily calendars, which are now court exhibits, show a sprinkling of non-partisan events around that time, including a speech to the Fraser Institute entitled "Are the Conservatives being Conservative?" a meeting with local mayors in Duncan's riding and a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce in Whitehorse.

A former Conservative colleague of Duffy's, who asked to remain anonymous, said it's common practice for parliamentarians to organize an official meeting with someone in order to help pay for a trip of personal or party interest.

"The age-old excuse is you go in for an announcement for something and then you stay for the fundraiser," said the Conservative.

What is abundantly clear is that Duffy was a big draw

+ PERSONAL INVITATIONS

Duffy personally asked by MPs to attend fundraisers

The court heard earlier in the week that MP John Duncan had specifically invited Duffy to speak in Courtenay, B.C. At both his and Cannan's fundraisers, the local Conservative riding associations picked up hotel bills and some meals. Neither MP knew who paid for Duffy's

air travel.

The appearance was in addition to one for B.C. Conservative MP Ron Cannan who had heard Duffy would be in the neighbouring riding led by MP Cathy McLeod, and asked if the senator could add another Conservative mingle to his travel schedule in June 2009.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

He was high profile ... probably one of the highest-profile members of the Senate, because of his years in the media, and people would have an opportunity to come and listen to him.

B.C. Conservative MP Ron Cannan

among Conservatives who wanted to raise money or just interest among local supporters. An analysis of his daily calendars shows he helped out at least 74 former and current MPs with political activities over four years.

"He was high profile ... probably one of the highest-profile members of the Senate, be-

cause of his years in the media, and people would have an opportunity to come and listen to him," Cannan said under questioning by Crown prosecutor Jason Neubauer.

"He's an entertaining speaker with lots of stories, and it created an opportunity for dialogue with our members."

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Victim's family 'grief-stricken'

COURT

Sharif Said is city's third homicide of the year



Joe Lofaro
Metro|Ottawa

Sharif Said was the victim of a "senseless, callous" act of violence, but the 21-year-old's uncle said his family is not holding any grudges against the two men charged in Ottawa's third murder of the year.

"It's a very senseless tragedy. The family is grief stricken," Abdul Hassan said outside the Ottawa courthouse Thursday.

Just minutes before he spoke to the media, the two men accused in the May 3 shooting death in east Ot-

tawa appeared in court to face their charges.

Khalid Mohammad, 26, is facing a second-degree murder charge and Abdulaziz Abdullah, 28, has been charged with accessory after the fact for allegedly helping the suspect escape.

Said's mother and brother chose not to speak to the media, but the man's uncle thanked Ottawa police for their "swift" action.

"We trust the justice system to take its course," he said.

EMS crews found Said's body near the intersection of Tremblay and Belfast roads after neighbours woke to the sound of multiple loud bangs outside their homes.

Said was pronounced dead in hospital.

Hassan also took the opportunity to defend what he described as a "character assassination" of his nephew in earlier media reports, which



We trust the justice system to take its course.

Abdul Hassan,
Sharif Said's uncle

suggested Said's slaying was linked to gang and drug activity.

"That is speculation," he said, adding that Said was a model student who had obtained scholarships to Carleton University and the University of Ottawa.

Hassan, however, admonished Mohammad and Abdullah for not respecting the value of human life.

"They need to realize life is precious," he said. "They had no clue that life is precious. Our son did not attack them. He was not in a gang or anything like that."

WITH FILES FROM LUCY SCHOLEY



The family of Sharif Said leaves the Ottawa courthouse on Thursday. JOE LOFARO/METRO

CRIME

It's not a good month to be a tobacco smuggler in Cornwall

Not everyone is enjoying the bright spring weather.

Police say April has been a tough spring for tobacco smugglers near Cornwall.

A task force of the RCMP, Ontario Provincial Police, Canada Border Services Agency, and the Ontario Ministry of Finance made five busts of cigarette smugglers.

Some of the busts were relatively small, while others involved large volumes of illegal cigarettes. They combined for more than 1986.7 kg of fine cut tobacco, 11 cases and 131 large baggies of cigarettes, six cases of

+ DETAILS

The people arrested are from Cornwall, St. Regis, Long Sault, and Morrisburg, Ont., St. Regis N.Y., and Longueuil and Ste-Barbe, Que.

cigars, 206 grams of marijuana, and three vehicles in a month.

One of the arrests came when police said they saw an Akwesasne man riding a bicycle with a large duffel bag on his back and a smaller bag on his front, pedalling to a home on First

Street West in Cornwall.

His bicycle and 50 cartons of contraband tobacco worth \$1,100 were seized.

In another case, police noticed a boat without navigation lights pulling away from the shoreline of the St. Lawrence River.

Shortly afterwards, a U-Haul truck was stopped on Hwy 2. It contained 1,710 kg of unstamped tobacco worth \$153,900 on the street, police said.

"As we can see, it is in partnership that we can be even more efficient," said S/Sgt. Sylvain Leroux of Cornwall RCMP.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Charges laid in ByWard Market hit-and-run

Ottawa police say a man turned himself in and is facing criminal charges after a pedestrian was struck in the ByWard Market last month.

A man in his 20s was crossing Murray Street near the intersection of King Edward Avenue on the evening of April 30 when he was struck by a vehicle. The suspect then fled the scene, po-

lice say. Matthew Domingue, 20, has been charged with leaving the scene of a collision and criminal negligence causing bodily harm.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Fourth arrest made in Aylmer homicide

Sûreté du Québec police have made a fourth arrest in the double homicide of an Aylmer couple.

Spokesman Sgt. Marc Tes-

sier says the suspect was being questioned Thursday.

The latest arrest comes a day after the provincial police force said they arrested a 34-year-old man in connection with the Jan. 6, 2014, slaying of Travos Votour and Amanda Trottier. Police have also charged Sonia Vilon, 39, with first-degree murder and Rene Samson Von Richter, 24, faces two first-degree murder charges. METRO

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Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney, right, speaks at an announcement on Canada's national security as federal Immigration Minister Chris Alexander looks on in Montreal, Thursday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds crack down on passports

TERRORISM

Changes allow authorities to cancel, revoke documents

Ottawa says it is introducing passport measures to prevent people they call would-be terrorists and sex offenders from travelling abroad.

The changes would allow authorities to cancel, revoke or refuse passports for national security or terrorism purposes.

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney and Citizenship Minister Chris Alexander made the announcement on Thursday at Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport.

The measures were included

in the Conservatives' budget bill, which was introduced Thursday.

Blaney and Alexander also said people who have their passports revoked or cancelled will have to wait 10 years before applying for another.

The ministers added that the changes would allow Federal Court justices who preside over passport proceedings to protect information from being disclosed but to be able to use that information in reaching their decisions.

Alexander said the government is sending a "very strong message."

"We won't allow the Canadian passport to be used as a tool by terrorists to carry out unspeakable acts of violence, criminal acts, and Canada will not tolerate this type of behaviour," he told a news conference at the airport.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ IN BRIEF

Key bomb chemicals not found in cottage: Report

Police should have informed the public they knew a stockpile of chemicals that led to evacuations in two cities lacked key bomb ingredients, says a defence lawyer representing the man arrested in the high-profile case.

Mike Taylor was referring Thursday to one of several court exhibits released in the

case of 42-year-old Christopher Phillips, who has been charged with uttering threats and possessing a weapon: the hazardous chemical osmium tetroxide.

Forensics expert Melanie Brochu wrote that chemicals police found in Phillips' cottage in Grand Desert didn't include the ingredients needed for homemade explosives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST ALLEGATIONS

PQ leadership looming over Quebecor

The shadow of Quebecor Inc.'s controlling shareholder loomed large over the company's annual meeting Thursday despite efforts of board members to distance themselves from the man who will likely become leader of the Parti Quebecois.

Pierre Karl Peladeau, who owns the majority of voting shares in Quebecor, hasn't been involved in the governance of the company for "months and months," said Pierre Dion,

president and CEO of the media conglomerate.

Since being elected to the legislature last year, Peladeau and Quebecor have been dogged by conflict-of-interest allegations, while calls for him to divest his shares have increased ever since he launched his bid for the PQ leadership.

"I don't remember the last time I met with Pierre Karl," Dion told reporters after the meeting. "It's been a very long



(Peladeau) has been very good in not interfering at all and that's been my experience for the last year.

Quebecor chairman Brian Mulroney

time. Mr. Peladeau is not involved in the day-to-day operations of this organization."

Peladeau maintains he is willing to put his Quebecor shares in a blind trust, but has steadfastly rejected the idea of selling his stake in the company.

Quebec's national assembly is currently studying what to do about Peladeau.

Quebecor chairman Brian Mulroney said Peladeau is sometimes consulted on company matters, but that such an approach is normal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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'Mr. Khadr, you're free to go'

'GUANTANAMO'S CHILD'

After over a decade, Omar Khadr speaks to the public

After spending more than a decade in prison, Omar Khadr says he'll show Canadians — and Prime Minister Stephen Harper — that he's worthy of their trust.

Speaking publicly for the first time since his release on bail, the former Guantanamo Bay inmate thanked Canadians on Thursday for giving him a chance.

"I will prove to them that I'm more than what they thought of me, I'll prove to them that I'm a good person," he said outside his lawyer's home.

"Give me a chance, see who I am as a person not as a name, and then they can make their own judgment after that."

With a few words, an Alberta justice on Thursday paved the way for Khadr to get his first taste of freedom in almost 13 years.

Appeal Court Justice Myra Bielby rejected the government's last-ditch attempt to block his bail. The government, she said, had failed to prove his release would cause serious harm to Canadian interests or pose a risk to the public.

"Mr. Khadr, you're free to go," Bielby said Thursday.

Khadr's longtime lawyer Dennis Edney walked over to his client and whispered, "We done it." Edney's wife, Patricia sobbed uncontrollably for a few minutes, then hugged and kissed her husband.

Outside court, an emotional Edney said the day had been a long time coming as he talked about his client's ordeal since the Americans captured him grievously wounded in Afghanistan in July 2002, when he was 15 years old.



Omar Khadr, right, walks out of court Thursday with his lawyer Dennis Edney in Edmonton. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Khadr's bail comes with conditions

Omar Khadr has been released on \$5,000 bail while he appeals his war crimes convictions in the United States.

His bail conditions include:

- Must wear an electronic monitoring device.
- Must live with his lawyer Dennis Edney.
- Must observe a nightly curfew from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.

- Cannot leave Alberta without prior approval, except to visit Edneys' vacation home in B.C.
- May only contact his family by telephone or video under the Edneys' supervision, and chat must be in English.
- May only have in-person visits with his family with prior approval from a bail supervisor.
- Any Internet access will be restricted and must be monitored and supervised.

ALBERTA COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH

We left a Canadian child in Guantanamo Bay to suffer torture (and) we Canada participated in this torture. So today's a wonderful day for justice.

Dennis Edney, Omar Khadr's longtime lawyer

The government, which has consistently branded Khadr an unrepentant terrorist and said it would fight his release every step of the way, expressed disappointment at the latest turn of events.

As paperwork was prepared for Khadr's release, which comes with a list of restrictions including wearing a tracking bracelet and a curfew, an emotional Edney stepped outside to denounce a federal government under

Prime Minister Stephen Harper for showing no mercy.

Edney's co-counsel, Nate Whiting, tweeted a picture of the two leaving the courthouse Thursday.

Khadr pleaded guilty in October 2010 before a widely discredited military commission to five war crimes — including murder in the death of a U.S. special forces soldier. In exchange, the commission handed him a further eight-year sentence.

Dubbed "Guantanamo's Child," he was the youngest inmate and lone westerner left in the naval prison at the time. He remains the only person convicted of murder for the battlefield death of an American soldier in Afghanistan.

Khadr returned to Canada from Guantanamo Bay in 2012 under an international transfer treaty, and later said he had only pleaded guilty to get out of the notorious prison.

Last month, Alberta Court of Queen's Bench Justice June Ross granted his bid for bail while he appeals his war-crimes conviction, but the Canadian government made a last-ditch attempt to have the ruling stayed.

Bielby, after thinking about it for two days, would have none

of it. Any risks to Canadian interests were largely speculative and at best minor, she said.

Following his transfer to Canada, Khadr was housed in a maximum security institution in Ontario, before being transferred to Edmonton, and then to Bowden Institution near Innisfail, Alta., where he was recently classified as a minimum security prisoner.

Khadr's legal odyssey is far from over.

His \$20-million civil lawsuit that claims the government conspired with the Americans to torture him and breach his rights is still ongoing, while Ottawa's challenge of his youth status reaches the Supreme Court of Canada next week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COMMUNITY

Support for Khadr strong

For the last 12 years, in between interrogation sessions and working in prison factories, Omar Khadr has been trying to learn beyond his Grade 8 education.

Khadr, now 28, has always known the day would come when he would finally leave prison and have to adjust to everyday life.

While governments, circumstance and his parents, each in their own way, have failed Khadr, strangers have stepped into the void to help educate him.

Nine Alberta university professors, most of them from The King's University in suburban Edmonton, have spent years visiting Khadr in prison, and tutoring him. Since Khadr was transferred to Alberta in May 2013, the professors have worked with him at least once a week.

There are also those who offer Khadr a schooling of another kind — not in books but in the benefits of socializing and shooting the breeze. These socially adept university students and recent graduates write him letters and visit him in prison.

Seven women from various countries have even started the online campaign Free Omar Khadr Now. University of Alberta graduate Muna Abougoush is one of them. She began the website six years ago to keep Khadr's name circulating.

"Omar has such a support community," says Abougoush. This past Christmas, Khadr received 500 letters from supporters — some as far away as China. And he tries to answer them all.

Khadr's supporters come from different faiths and cultures. They have all become his safety net, supporting his lawyer Dennis Edney and his wife Patricia. The Edneys are taking Khadr into their home after his release.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Rule change allows for lots of spending in byelections

Federal parties and their candidates will be eligible to spend millions of taxpayer-subsidized dollars to contest three federal byelections, thanks to rule changes enacted last year in the government's controversial Fair Elections Act.

The rule change allows individual candidates — and national parties — to inflate their spending cap by a pro-rated amount whenever a campaign extends beyond the 37-day minimum. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pardons backlog can be cleared, says Blaney

The Parole Board of Canada has the funding to deal with a long-standing backlog of thousands of old pardon applications for serious offences, Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney said Thursday.

Blaney told a House of Commons committee that the board is meeting its objectives and is on time in handling the application backlog, which dates back as far as 2012 when the Conservative government overhauled the pardons system.

"A little more than 5,000 are left and Mr. (Harvey) Cenaiko (the chairman of the parole board) and

his team confirmed to me that they have the financial resources to keep dealing with the backlog," Blaney said in response to a question from a New Democrat MP.

That will be news to the 5,700 applicants whose efforts to seal their old criminal records and move on with their lives have been in limbo. The board said in March that, while it was on track to finally clear the backlog of old applications for less serious, summary convictions, it could not continue to devote the same resources to tackling some the more serious cases.

Some professional pardon ap-

DETAILS

The Conservative government overhauled the pardons system to make it more expensive and rigorous after The Canadian Press reported in 2010 that serial sex predator Graham James had been granted a pardon three years earlier.

plication services, which operate in a fashion similar to tax preparation services, are advising clients with old applications to give up,

forfeit their original application fee and re-apply under the new \$631 "record suspension" process.

"At this rate it will take another four years before that backlog is cleared. Many of our clients have already waited over three years and have put their career and travel plans on hold," Azmairin Jadavji, president and CEO of Vancouver-based Pardon Services Canada, said in an email Thursday.

But the board said Thursday it was not necessarily advising the current 5,700 backlogged applicants to start over.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney THE CANADIAN PRESS



Zofia Cisowski in Vancouver. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crown wants three years in perjury case

TRIAL

Taser victim's mother has letter of impact read in court

When Zofia Cisowski immigrated to Canada she saw the RCMP as the symbol of democracy and trust, but that was destroyed in the years since officers jolted her son with a Taser, a court heard.

"My faith in the honesty of the RCMP has forever been shaken," said the mother's letter read at the sentencing of RCMP Const. Kwesi Millington on Thursday.

Millington was convicted of perjury for lying during a public inquiry into Robert Dziekanski's death at Vancouver International Airport in October 2007.

"It is difficult to put into a few or any words how the perjury of Mr. Millington has im-

pacted to me," B.C. Supreme Court Justice William Ehrcke read from Cisowski's writing.

Crown lawyer Scott Fenton told the hearing that the disgraced Mountie convicted of lying about the high-profile death of Dziekanski should spend up to three years in prison. Fenton said Millington's punishment should take into account the seriousness of his offence, that his testimony was vital to the inquiry and that his perjury was planned, deliberate and sustained.

"It was not an emotional, immediate, knee-jerk response to a question," he said. "It continued over three days. The accused had ample time to prepare for the inquiry."

The Crown argued Millington's position of authority, as well as his apparent lack of remorse, were aggravating factors that demanded a more serious punishment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ONTARIO NEWS

Woman accused of faking illness to raise \$100,000

An Ontario woman has been charged with fraud after police say she allegedly faked a rare neurological disease to raise over \$100,000 in donations. Police say Cynthia Lynn Smith claimed to be suffering from Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy and acted out many of its symptoms.

They say her family and friends helped the Burlington resident start a charity to

raise money for experimental medicines.

Halton Regional Police began investigating Smith in late March after a local reporter raised concerns about the validity of her charity. Investigators then determined that Smith had never been diagnosed or treated for the illness she claimed to be suffering from.

Smith has been arrested and charged with defrauding the public over \$5,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More kids in ER for mental health: Report

A growing number of Canadian children and youth are seeking help for mental health disorders at hospital emergency rooms and more are ending up being admitted for treatment, researchers say, suggesting that young people may be having difficulties accessing community-based services.

In a report released Thursday, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) shows ER visits for mental health issues among Can-

adians aged five to 24 jumped 45 per cent between 2006-2007 and 2013-2014.

Over the same seven-year period, rates of in-patient hospitalizations that involved at least one overnight stay rose 37 per cent for this age group.

The study found that the highest use of hospital services was among youth aged 15 to 17, with ER visits rising by 53 per cent and in-patient hospitalizations up by 74 per cent.

Kids aged 10 to 14 also experienced a major increase in

45%

The increase in emergency room visits by young Canadians aged 5 to 24 for mental health issues in the last seven years, according to a report by the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

hospital services use, with ER visits jumping by 68 per cent

and hospital admissions growing by 64 per cent.

"We know that people with mental disorders typically come more often and they stay longer in hospital," said Kathleen Morris, CIHI's director of health system analysis and emerging issues.

"And because of that, on any given day, half of the hospital beds that are being used by children and youth are actually filled with a patient being treated for a mental disorder."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Alex Colville, *Le Prince Edouard d'Albionville*, 1965, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. Photo © NSC

PARIS

UN slowed abuse claim: Prosecutor

The "UN hierarchy" rejected French efforts to hear from the author of a UN report alleging that French soldiers sexually abused four children in the Central African Republic, the Paris prosecutor's office said Thursday.

The revelation accompanied word that French authorities had opened a formal judicial inquiry into the case that the Paris prosecutors' office knew about in July, but was made public only last week following a report in the British newspaper the Guardian. Independent judges will now take over the case from the prosecutor's office, an acknowledgment of the seriousness and complexity of the accusations that have sparked international dismay and led to the suspension of a UN official who leaked the abuse claims.

The prosecutor's office said

UN officials twice rejected French efforts to speak with the report's author, though she was willing to talk with them in Paris. The report's author said she spoke with six children, four who said they were abused and two others who said they witnessed the abuse.

"The UN hierarchy refused this questioning, however, indicating that the functionary benefited from immunity that had to be lifted before any questioning," the prosecutor's office said in a statement. The report's author was not identified.

The statement also cited a total of more than six months of delays in French investigators' efforts to get answers from her, which finally resulted in written responses received on April 29 and in turn led to the probe announced Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIGRANT CRISIS

Italian navy finds capsized ship

Italian navy ships on Thursday located what is believed to be the fishing boat that capsized April 18 with an estimated 800 migrants aboard, a tragedy that spurred Italy and Europe into a new round of soul-searching over how to cope with the record waves of migrants coming ashore from Libya.

Using sonar and a submarine, the navy said Thursday it had located a blue, 25-metre vessel matching the description of the doomed boat about 135 kilometres northeast of the Libyan coast. It was resting on the seabed at a depth of around 375 metres, a statement said.

A navy official said the boat could be raised at such depths, but that any decision to do so rested with Sicilian prosecutors who are conducting the criminal investigation into the deaths and requested the navy try to locate the wreck.

Survivors reported that up to 800 people were locked into two levels of the hold by the smugglers. The boat capsized when its captain mistakenly rammed it into the freighter that had come to its rescue. It was further destabilized when the migrants on deck then rushed to one side hoping to get off first. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Six-year-old girl dies after sailboat sinks in Atlantic

A 6-year-old French girl who braved hours in the ocean with her father amid 10-metre waves after a yacht sank in the mid-Atlantic later died of hypothermia, Portuguese authorities said Thursday. A French sailboat carrying a French couple and their two children sank after midnight, Portuguese navy spokesman Paulo Vicente said. The mother and 9-year-old son climbed into the yacht's lifeboat and were picked up by a merchant ship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S., Saudi Arabia call for 5-day ceasefire in Yemen

Saudi Arabia and the United States on Thursday announced a five-day, renewable ceasefire in Yemen's war to allow aid to reach millions of civilians caught in a humanitarian crisis from the conflict. But the truce is dependent on Iran-backed rebels and their allies also agreeing to stop fighting, they said. The announcement came as battles raged in several parts of Yemen between forces loyal to the nation's internationally recognized president and the Shiite rebels and their allies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.K. Labour Party Parliamentary candidate for Aberavon, Stephen Kinnock stands with his wife, Prime Minister of Denmark Helle Thorning-Schmidt during the counting in Britain's election at Neath Sports Centre in Neath, Wales, Thursday. British voters streamed to schools, churches and pubs Thursday for a say in their country's future, voting for lawmakers in an election expected to produce no clear victor and lead to days of frantic haggling for power. JOE GIDDENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exit poll sees strong showing for Tories

U.K. ELECTION

About 50M registered to vote

British voters streamed to schools, churches and pubs Thursday for a say in their country's future, voting for lawmakers in an election expected to produce no clear victor and lead to days of frantic haggling for power.

Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative Party fared much better than expected, an exit poll projected, suggesting it is within touch-

ing distance of forming a new government.

The opposition Labour Party of Ed Miliband took a beating, according to the poll, much of it due to the rise of the separatist Scottish National Party.

Cameron's coalition partner, the Liberal Democrat Party, was expected to lose most of its seats.

If no party wins outright, it may take days or weeks of negotiation to forge a workable government.

The carefully stage-managed campaign lacked impromptu drama. But television debate appearances in which the public put questions di-

rectly to the politicians made plain that many distrust promises to safeguard the economy, protect the National Health Service from severe cutbacks and control the number of migrants from the European Union.

Voters were making their voices heard all across this island nation of 64 million people. And signs of the unfolding political drama were abundant. The squares opposite Parliament were packed with temporary outdoor television studios, while commuters picked up newspapers urging voters to the polls.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ UPDATES

The exit poll projected that the Conservatives would get 316 seats — up from 302 and far more than had been predicted — and Labour 239, down from 256. The Liberal Democrats would shrink from 56 seats to 10, while the Scottish nationalists would grow from six to 58, all but one of Scotland's seats.

+ LATEST RESULTS, METRONEWS.CA

FRANCE

Phone-tapping of Sarkozy was legal: Court

The Paris appeals court ruled Thursday that investigating judges didn't break any laws when they tapped conversations between former President Nicolas Sarkozy and his lawyer, in connection with a probe into past campaign financing.

The decision Thursday is a new blow to the conservative opposition leader as he eyes a 2017 presidential bid, because it allows investigations to resume.

Sarkozy is under preliminary charges for active corruption and influence-peddling based

on information gleaned from the phone taps. It's among several legal cases he has faced since losing the presidency to Francois Hollande in 2012 — but it's the case that has the greatest chances of seeing Sarkozy sent to trial.

Sarkozy and his lawyer Thierry Herzog had protested the phone taps, saying they breached lawyer-client privilege and that the investigating judges didn't get proper authorization.

But the appeals court ruled in favour of investigators, ac-

cording to Herzog's lawyer, Paul-Albert Iweins. The court found that wiretapping on different phone lines used by Sarkozy under his own name and under the false identity of "Paul Bismuth" had been legally carried out, except for one minor phone line.

Lawyers said Sarkozy and Herzog would appeal to France's top court, the Cour de Cassation. "The fight for the confidentiality of communications between a lawyer and client is not just Thierry Herzog's fight, it is the fight of all

lawyers," Iweins said.

Investigators tapped the phones in 2013-2014 as part of a probe into illegal financing of Sarkozy's 2007 presidential campaign. By chance, they discovered an alleged influence-peddling plot by Sarkozy and Herzog as they tried to obtain confidential information about the financing probe.

That discovery prompted a new, separate investigation. The ruling Thursday means that investigation can now resume after a seven-month suspension. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Zoo names monkey after British princess

JAPAN

Officials plan to seek advice after backlash

A Japanese zoo has apologized after being criticized for naming a baby monkey Charlotte, the name of the newborn British princess.

The Takasakiyama Natural Zoological Garden said Thursday it was considering renaming the macaque. It was flooded with angry calls and emails Wednesday after announcing the name for its first monkey born this year, a tradition at the zoo run by the southern city of Oita.

Charlotte was the favourite in a public ballot, receiving 59 out of 853 votes in the counting, conducted after the female monkey was born Wednesday.

Votes for Charlotte surged after the British princess was named Monday and topped the ballot in the last three days of



Newborn monkey Charlotte clings to her mom at the zoo in Oita.

TAKASAKIYAMA NATURAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

voting, which ran from March 27 to May 6.

Many critics said giving the princess' name to a monkey was disrespectful to British royals.

The complaints originated in Japan. Zoo official Akira Asano

said he was not aware of any complaints from British citizens. He said the zoo has also received support for Charlotte, and the views are now largely divided.

Officials at the zoo and the

city were still discussing what to do with the monkey's name. The zoo now plans to seek advice from the British Embassy before making a final decision, Kyodo News agency reported.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Nude pics problem for Miss Zimbabwe

Last year, Miss Zimbabwe quit after photographs of the beauty queen posing naked emerged on social media. This year's Miss Zimbabwe faces a similar scandal.

Organizers of the Miss Zimbabwe pageant said they are investigating 25-year-old Emily Kachote two weeks into her reign after photos that allegedly show her nude appeared on the Internet.

Kachote, who would represent Zimbabwe at the Miss World finals later this year, will be dethroned if the photos are authentic, pageant spokesman Tendai Chirau said this week.

The contestants signed contracts declaring they had never posed nude before the pageant and that, in the event of winning the crown, they would not pose naked during the yearlong tenure as Miss Zimbabwe.

Kachote told H Metro, a Zimbabwean tabloid newspaper, that she suspected "these pictures" would emerge but "it happened a long time ago."

She referred to a date with a man whose home she visited, saying: "We had some drinks and I had no control over every-



Miss Zimbabwe, Emily Kachote. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

thing that happened that night. I no longer have anything to do with the guy."

Some people in Zimbabwe sympathize with Kachote, saying those who leak nude photos in such cases deserve criticism.

"This is another form of abuse. Everyone is entitled to privacy and imagine the trauma she could be going through," Zimbabwe's Herald newspaper quoted musician Albert Nyathi as saying.

"Women are abused a lot in Zimbabwe and it's high time it should stop," he added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED STATES

Mass harvest of phone records illegal: Court

The unprecedented and unwarranted bulk collection of Americans' phone records by the government is illegal because it wasn't authorized by Congress, a federal appeals court said Thursday as it asked legislators to decide how to balance national security and privacy interests.

The National Security Agency's (NSA) collection and storage of U.S. landline calling records — times, dates and numbers but not content of the calls — was the most controversial program among many disclosed in 2013 by former NSA systems administrator Edward Snowden. Some NSA officials opposed the program, and independent evaluations have found it of limited value as a counterterrorism tool. Snowden remains exiled in Russia.

On Thursday, a three-judge panel of a Court of Appeals in Manhattan permitted the NSA to continue temporarily as it exists, but all but pleaded for Congress to better define where boundaries exist.

"In light of the asserted national security interests at stake, we deem it prudent to pause to

66

It underscores once again the need for truly systemic reform.

Jameel Jaffer, ACLU deputy legal director

allow an opportunity for debate in Congress that may (or may not) profoundly alter the legal landscape," said the opinion written by Judge Gerald Lynch.

A lower court judge in December tossed out an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit, saying the program was a necessary extension to security taken after the 2001 terror attacks.

U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch said the government is reviewing the court's decision. She added that the June 1 expiration of the Patriot Act provisions provides opportunities to re-authorize the program "in a way that does preserve its efficacy and protect privacy."

Republicans and Democrats in the House of Representative have agreed on a bill to end

the government's bulk collection of the records, but Senate leaders are backing a competing measure that would maintain the status quo. The divisions on the issue don't run neatly along partisan lines. Libertarian-leaning Republicans have joined many Democrats in arguing that a secret intelligence agency should not be storing the records of every American phone call.

The House Judiciary Committee last month overwhelmingly passed the latest version of a bill known as the USA Freedom Act. The measure seeks to codify President Barack Obama's proposal to end the NSA's collection and storage of the phone records. Instead, it would allow the agency to request records held by telephone companies under a court order in terrorism investigations.

Under that proposal, the NSA might end up with access to even more data. As it stands, the program doesn't collect data on most mobile calls, but under a new arrangement, the NSA could request mobile records as needed from phone companies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



OKLAHOMA FLASH FLOODS, TORNADOES DESTROY HOMES, INJURE AT LEAST 12

Yuki Fukui in his RV, which was knocked onto its side during Wednesday's severe storms that tore through Oklahoma City. Gov. Mary Fallin has declared a state of emergency in 12 Oklahoma counties. Also hit were parts of Texas, Kansas and Nebraska. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUCLEAR TALKS

U.S. Senate passes bill on Iran

The U.S. Senate muscled its way into President Barack Obama's talks to curb Iran's nuclear program, overwhelmingly backing legislation Thursday that would let Congress review and possibly reject any final deal with Tehran.

The vote was 98-1 for the bipartisan bill that would give

Congress a say on what could be a historic accord that the United States and five other nations are trying to finalize with Iran. Under the agreement, Iran would roll back its nuclear program in exchange for relief from crippling economic penalties.

The lone no vote came from

Sen. Tom Cotton, a Republican who wants the administration to submit any agreement to the Senate as a treaty. That would require approval of two-thirds of the Senate. The House is expected to vote next week on the measure.

The talks resume next week in Vienna. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Facebook exec faces new work-life crisis over death

CAREERS

Loss of partner raises question of how soon to return to work

What happened to Sheryl Sandberg could happen to anyone: the woman who wrote the book on balancing career and family will have to figure out how soon she will return to her high-profile job following the unexpected death of her husband.

In the book *Lean In*, the Facebook chief operating officer wrote that marriage is "the biggest career decision" a person can make and implored women who want to move up the corporate ladder to settle with someone who wants to do his share in the home.

Now, Sandberg faces the prospect of raising two young children and continuing in a high-flying tech career without David Goldberg, her husband of 11 years who she often credits with providing the support that was necessary for her to succeed both personally and professionally.

"Dave was my rock," Sandberg wrote in a Facebook tribute Tuesday after the funeral of David Goldberg, who died in a treadmill accident while vacationing in Mexico. "When I got upset, he stayed calm. When I was worried, he said



Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg with her late husband, David Goldberg, in this 2011 file photo. Goldberg died while exercising at a Mexican vacation resort on Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

it would be OK. When I wasn't sure what to do, he figured it out."

Sandberg has not made public her plans on returning to Facebook, but the decision she faces highlights a question that the average worker is not prepared to consider until a similar tragedy strikes: how soon is too soon to return to



The first issue is when to go back to work after tragedy strikes.... There is no easy answer on that.

Karissa Thacker, a workplace psychologist

work after losing a partner, parent or child?

For those who can, experts recommend taking time off. Many big companies offer a

few days of paid bereavement leave and counselling for employees once they return to work.

But experts say workers can

grieve for weeks, months, even years following a death. At a time when workers are being asked to spend more of their time at the office and away from home, they say more companies are flexible in these circumstances.

Karissa Thacker, a workplace psychologist who has consulted for companies such as Ford, UPS and Best Buy, said she thinks Sandberg will "certainly *Lean In*" and negotiate how much time she needs for herself during this difficult time. As the No. 2 executive at Facebook (one of the Top 20 best places to work in 2015, according to Glassdoor), she is in a position to do so. But other workers in less high-profile jobs may also be afforded more time.

Many workers find it difficult to jump back into the demands of their daily workload once they're back at the office. Experts suggest a slow return to work, even going part-time for a while, if possible. And they say everyone from the employers to the workers themselves should be flexible.

Getting back into a routine can help with coping, though. Some people use their grief to help others. Katie Couric, the TV journalist and former talk-show host who lost her husband to colon cancer in 1998, became an outspoken advocate for colon-cancer awareness.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MCDONALD'S

Kale salad on menu in Canada

Canadian McDonald's outlets are now serving up new salads featuring an unexpected ingredient from the struggling fast-food giant: Kale.

The world's biggest burger chain, in a battle to reinvent itself, introduced three salads in Canada on Thursday with trendy kale as an ingredient.

The nutrient-rich green has seen a surge in popularity in recent years as health-conscious consumers have eaten leafy kale in salads, smoothies and even baked as chips.

Chris Foong, an analyst with research firm Datassential, said in an email that the number of dining establishments in Canada with kale on the menu increased more than six-fold between 2010 and 2014, to nine per cent of all restaurants across the country. The vegetable is even referenced in Beyoncé's music video for last year's "7/11" single, in which the singer wears a sweater emblazoned with the word "Kale".

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SMARTPHONES

BlackBerry dumps keyboard

BlackBerry is foregoing its famous physical keyboard in its newest smartphone.

The Waterloo, Ont.,-based company launched BlackBerry Leap in Canada on Thursday, a cheaper phone for consumers who want a touch screen but don't want to pay the higher price of an iPhone or Samsung Galaxy device.

It's the first touchscreen phone from the company since it launched the Z30 more than a year and a half ago.

Since then, BlackBerry has focused on releasing models with a keyboard, like the Passport and Classic, as they've proven to be more popular with the company's business-centric customers.

Features on the Leap include a 25-hour battery life and an eight-megapixel camera.

The company says wireless carriers will offer BlackBerry Leap for free when users sign a two-year contract, or it can be purchased without a contract for \$349.

Higher-end smartphones, including some alternative BlackBerry devices, tend to cost \$400 to \$900 with a con-



tract, depending on the model.

BlackBerry Leap will be available from an array of wireless carriers in Canada, including Rogers, Telus and Bell, as well as Wind Mobile, Sasktel and BlackBerry's own web store.

BlackBerry also announced Thursday that T-Mobile, one of the big U.S. wireless carriers, will begin stocking its BlackBerry Classic model starting next week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

INSTAGRAM IN IRAN

Censors try to filter out Bieber

Iran's censors are struggling to keep Justin Bieber's abs off Instagram.

The tattooed pop star's pouty, shirtless poses have recently reappeared on Iranian smartphones, along with lingerie shots of Kim Kardashian and red carpet photos of Jennifer Lopez.

Mahmood Enayat of the London-based research group Small Media said a colleague in Iran confirmed he was able to access the racy images Wednesday.

Bieber's was one of at least 983 accounts previously blocked in the Islamic republic, according to a paper being presented at technology conference re:publica in Berlin on Thursday. One of the paper's authors, security researcher Frederic Jacobs, said



Nothing about it is 'smart' as far as we can tell.

International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran director Hadi Ghaemi

Kardashian's and Lopez's pages were also among those blocked.

The recent collapse of those blocks is awkward because Instagram is one of the few social networking sites easily accessible to Iranians and had been held up as a showcase for what politicians there describe as "smart filtering," or targeted censorship.

The re-emergence of Lopez's flesh-baring dragon dress and Kardashian's sexy selfies sug-

gests it isn't going to be that easy.

Jacobs says the snaps reappeared in Iran after Instagram began encrypting connections between smartphones and the site's servers in the past month. The encryption means that third parties can't easily tell whose accounts users are connecting to, frustrating censors' attempts to zero in on any particular stream of photographs.

Enayat said the censors' inability to control the flow of racy selfies proves that smart filtering policy is "a complete failure." International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran director Hadi Ghaemi agreed, predicting that the country's censors would continue to struggle with smart filtering.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Finding joy in every day: My mother's love is in the details

It's the week before Mother's Day, and I get a parcel in the mail.

I don't have kids. I have a mum to whom Canada Post owes heartfelt gratitude for the money she continues to spend on postage. A mum with a talent for what I call "small-ities" — tiny gestures, short notes, little kindnesses.

This time the parcel consists of a hand-me-down book of poetry, a clipping from the Victoria Times-Colonist newspaper and a postcard bearing the image of an elephant, dressed as a scientist, gawking at the explosion he's just created.

"There's bound to be the odd explosion," mum writes in her larger, rounded script, responding to a recent conversation where I had some complaining to do about life. Many people live in the anticipation, or the wake, of these explosions. Some, like my mum, live more in the joyous details of a day, and they make things nicer for the rest of us.

Each time she sends me mail — at least a monthly occurrence — I feel surprised, loved, comforted and guilty.

It's not just that I send comparatively few sweet notes and, in this case, have as yet put nothing in the mail for Mother's Day. It's that I'll never be as thoughtful as she is.

For every person she knows tangentially who has

a new baby, there is a book. For every friend she walks dogs with, a birthday jar of jam. In the spring, she always left potted hyacinths in our bedrooms, and their perfume reminds me of the way she eschewed fancy pots and placed the plants, instead, on a random saucer.

Her gestures aren't expensive. They often come in reused wrapping paper. Sometimes she finds them washed up on the beach. They might be a batch of "everything cookies" — made of coconut, chocolate chips, raisins and oats.

If she had to make an effort to be this way, it would be exhausting. But this is no practice of mindfulness. No trick from a self-help book. She is like the little songbirds she loves so much, who go about eating seeds and darting between trees without over-thinking it.

The other morning, she was distracted while playing tennis by a large heron flying into a nearby tree to wrestle away dead branches for his nest.

"He must have been a good 20 or 30 minutes, the poor bird, trying to get twigs," she said.

Every time I manage to hear a bird chirp above the nattering in my own head, I'm reminded of her. Sometimes I even try to be more grateful for — and attentive to — the small kindnesses of life.

Happy face/Sad face

From **patient protests** to **vivacious veterans**, Metro weighs in on the newsmaking headlines



Noises cause more than feline fright

A study in the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery found certain sounds — especially crinkling tinfoil, but also jangling keys or the clink of a spoon — can cause seizures in elderly cats. The researchers suggested cats are hypersensitive to sounds in the same pitch as a rodent's squeal — though even some deaf cats have been reported to suffer from this strange syndrome.

BBC.COM



Peeved patient asks to be paid for wait

Time is money, and Leslie Ellins wants a refund for hers. She wrote a letter to a Peterborough, Ont. hospital demanding to be reimbursed after waiting an hour and a half for an injection. She enclosed a bill for \$122.50 for her time. Ellins was irate that four patients were scheduled at the same time and said it was the last straw when the doctor and staff had the gall to take a lunch break while she waited.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Veteran wages war on would-be attacker

A robber got more than he bargained for when he attacked 95-year-old Second World War veteran Arthur Kamberis in New Hampshire. Kamberis was leaving a pharmacy when a man approached and reached for his wallet. Kamberis gave the man several firm whacks with his cane before a passer-by came to his aid. The attacker fled. Kamberis wasn't hurt, and the Good Samaritan drove him home. Police are still searching for a suspect.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Teen brings some sass to sex ed

The Internet was treated to some of the cheekiest answers ever on a sex-education quiz this week after a post on the photo-sharing site Imgur went viral. On the test, then-14-year-old Montrealer Mariah Fridman was asked to describe how to deal with a partner's objections to condoms. For "I don't have a condom with me," she suggested the comeback, "I don't have my vagina with me." For "Just this once; we hardly ever have sex," she quipped, "Now you know why."

BUZZFEED.COM

Avoiding touchy topics won't make them go away

THE KOHLER REPORT

Rebecca Kohler



Thousands of students across Ontario missed out on school this week when their parents kept them home in protest of the province's new sex-ed curriculum. The updated lesson plans touch on things (no pun intended) like gender identity, anal sex and the potential dangers of sexting. While these topics are new territory for some people, what got me giggling was certain parents' concerns over the fact that masturbation would be discussed with Grade 6 students.

In fact, there was a rumour circulating that teachers were actually going to demonstrate how to masturbate. I found this idea amusing, and then, as I started picturing some of

my elementary-school teachers giving such a lesson, disturbing. Would they do it casually while leaning on their desk? Bring in a trundle bed for the occasion? I thought of one of my French teachers — I'll call her Madame LaTulipe — who was missing half of one finger. And then I realized I don't know how to say "masturbate" in French, despite having been in French immersion. (They seriously don't know how to teach French in this country.)

Later, I remembered how when I was a kid I didn't hold my pencil properly, and my teacher put a plastic triangle on it to correct my finger positioning. Would there be a plastic triangle for the kids who didn't masturbate properly? A penis triangle?

Weird imaginings aside, I do think it's important to talk about masturbation in school just in case kids feel weird

about it, or if for some inexplicable reason they haven't yet discovered the best app the body has to offer.

And that's what a lot of the concerned parents are wary of: that the new curriculum will sexualize their children. But that's based on an age-old misconception. The truth is, children sexualize themselves — I mean, all the school supplies needed for this subject can be found in their pants.

Meanwhile, a Texas high school is in the news this week because it has been hit with a chlamydia outbreak, and guess what the school's sex-ed program teaches? Abstinence. They don't teach, "How to have sex and catch chlamydia." They teach nothing.

Perhaps parents should be more upset that, while there's so much to learn, schools are wasting precious time teaching kids something

The truth is, children sexualize themselves. All the school supplies for this subject are found in their pants.

they already know. (Why not a lesson in, "How to breathe through your nose and/or mouth"? But no — they kept their children home for fear their little innocents would go to school and learn how to masturbate.

I wonder how those kids passed the time all alone in their rooms.

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

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Girls just wanna have fun, too

ANALYSIS

Hollywood has been slow to make female bonding fodder for comedy

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse



This weekend Reese Witherspoon and Sofia Vergara play a by-the-book cop and the widow of a drug boss in the comedy *Hot Pursuit*. The unlikely duo hit the road, teaming up to outrun crooked cops and a murderous cartel. "Right now we can't trust anyone but each other," says Reese as they crack wise and dodge bullets.

It's a movie that follows in the long tradition of Hollywood buddy comedies.

There's an argument to be made that Abbott and Costello or Laurel and Hardy originated buddy comedies long before Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis donned dresses and camped it up in 1959's *Some Like It Hot*.

For my money, however, the Billy Wilder film about two musicians who witness the St. Valentine's Day Massacre and flee the state disguised as women set the template for the modern buddy movie.

The basic formula is there — colliding personalities, gibes and comic conflict between

the two actors — but more important than any of that is the chemistry between Lemmon and Curtis. Even though every buddy picture relies on tension between the leads, sparks also have to fly between them or the whole thing will fall flat.

Brett Ratner, director of *Rush Hour* 1, 2 and 3 — which paired Owen Wilson and Jackie Chan to great effect — calls interesting chemistry between actors "an explosion in a bottle" and says it's crucial to the success of any buddy pic.

Since *Some Like It Hot*, producers have paired up a laundry list of actors searching for the perfect mix. Lemmon and Walter Matthau were the journeymen of the genre, co-starring in six buddy pictures ranging from the sublime — *The Odd Couple*, which features the classic buddy picture one-liner, "I'm a neurotic nut, but you're crazy," — to the ridiculous — *Grumpier Old Men*.

The female buddy comedy is a more elusive beast. Recently Melissa McCarthy and Sandra Bullock teamed as a tough-talking street cop and uptight, lone wolf FBI agent to bring down a murderous drug dealer in *The Heat*. And in the 1980s, Bette Midler was the Queen of the form, pairing off with Shelley Long for *Outrageous Fortune* and with Lily Tomlin for *Big Business* in which both stars played dual roles, making it a buddy comedy times two. "Two's a company. Four's a riot," read the movie tagline.

There are others, dating back to 1937's *Stage Door*, but there

DAMES ON DUTY

Turn the page to see how Metro would recast classic cop movies with female leads



Sofia Vergara and Reese Witherspoon star in *Hot Pursuit*, a female buddy comedy that opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

is no debating that Hollywood has been slow to feature female bonding as a subject of buddy movies. It's wild that there are two man-and-his-dog buddy movies — *Turner and Hooch* and *K9* — but so few featuring women. Despite the box office success of

several female buddy comedies, sequels have been as rare as hen's teeth. For instance, *Vulture*.com points out that of the dueling buddy comedies released on April 25, 2008 — Tina Fey and Amy Poehler's *Baby Mama* and Harold & Kumar Escape from

Guantanamo Bay — Fey and company grossed \$60 million, while Harold and friends made \$38 million and yet the guys laughed all the way to another sequel while *Baby Mama* remains a one-off.

Hollywood is finally warming to the idea of female-driven com-

edies, so perhaps this weekend Witherspoon and the highest paid woman on television can generate enough dough to warrant another team-up.

In the movie biz, money usually speaks louder than anything, including gender.



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MEDIA PARTNERS:     

Buddy cop classics recast with women

Chris Alexander
Metro | Canada

The science of the “buddy cop” movie formula is simple: Take a pair of mismatched lawmen (or a cop and a civilian roped into the action), make one the loose cannon, the other uptight and watch the ensuing fun.

The latest buddy cop flick to hit screens is the Reese Witherspoon/Sofia Vergara vehicle *Hot Pursuit*, and what makes it unusual is its gender-specific casting. But as 2013’s comedy-action hit *The Heat* proved, the ladies can bumble around a crime scene with equally predictable, but nevertheless entertaining, results. So while we wait for the verdict on *Hot Pursuit*, Metro daydreamed about what it would be like if we could recast our favourite male-centric buddy cop flicks ... with chicks.



Starsky & Hutch

A revival of the 1970s cop drama that starred David Soul and Paul Michael Glaser would go down easier with an estrogen-flipped casting of the scrappy and sexy **Emma Stone** and **Scarlett Johansson** in leather driving jackets. DO IT!



48 Hrs.

This Walter Hill-directed classic sees Eddie Murphy in his breakout role as a petty crook who hooks up with grizzled detective Nick Nolte to track down a ruthless drug dealer. As funny and caustic as Murphy was, imagine Pitch Perfect 2 star **Rebel Wilson** as the street-smart thug and *Gone Girl*’s **Rosamund Pike** as an icy incarnation of the Nolte character. Wilson would bring the laughs and Pike would play straight-woman while giving her the stink eye.

Dragnet

The landmark TV show was originally a radio program, and later, a feature comedy film starring Tom Hanks and Dan Aykroyd. All incarnations featured blank-faced detective Joe Friday and his revolving door of partners solving crimes in L.A. For our money, we’d love to have *Game of Thrones* heavy **Lena Headey** star as humourless Jolene Friday and perhaps cast her against **Helena Bonham Carter** as her chain-smoking, hard-drinking partner.



Tango & Cash

Legendary and lunk-headed flick starring Sylvester Stallone and Kurt Russell as two wiseacre LAPD cops, framed by drug lords and sent to the slammer for life. Forget Sly and Kurt — wouldn’t it be divine to see the two *Grande Dames* of contemporary cinema, **Helen Mirren** and **Meryl Streep**, as senior officers doing hard time in a women’s prison while endlessly saying “FUBAR,” instead?



Turner & Hooch

This was one of a handful of ‘80s flicks that featured an officer forced to share space with some class of canine. Tom Hanks’ obsessive-compulsive detective teamed with a drooling dog with a nose for trouble. We’d gladly take the ever-watchable **Rose Byrne** as Turner and, in a brilliant bit of stunt casting, hook her up with **Kim Kardashian** in a fur coat as the uncouth Hooch. Whaddya think?

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COMEDY

Hot Pursuit

Director: Anne Fletcher
Starring: Reese Witherspoon, Sofia Vergara

In *Hot Pursuit*, an uptight and by-the-book cop (Reese Witherspoon) tries to protect the sexy and outgoing widow (Sofia Vergara) of a drug boss as they race through Texas, pursued by crooked cops and murderous gunmen.



ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **17%** Audience: **91%**

COMEDY

Adult Beginners

Director: Ross Katz
Starring: Rose Byrne, Nick Kroll

A young, hipster entrepreneur (Nick Kroll) crashes and burns on the eve of his company’s big launch. With his entire life in disarray, he leaves Manhattan to move in with his estranged pregnant sister (Rose Byrne), brother-in-law (Bobby Cannavale) and three year-old nephew in the suburbs — only to become their nanny.



ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **45%** Audience: **40%**

Nick Kroll gets serious – sort of

NEW RELEASE

Adult Beginners
lets comic take
lead and show
some emotion



Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

He's made a name for himself on Kroll Show, Parks and Recreation and The League for off-the-wall, outlandish comedy characters, but Nick Kroll has something new in mind for Adult Beginners, a comedy — about a washed-up entrepreneur (Kroll) who crashes with his sister (Rose Byrne) after his life implodes — with a serious side.

The thing that seems to catch people off-guard with this movie is how dramatic it actually becomes.

I feel like the original idea could've gone either way. You could go toward a big, sort of broad "it's the manny!" thing. But Vin Diesel in The Pacifier kind of ruined that for us. I



Nick Kroll takes a shot at playing a big screen lead in Adult Beginners. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

pretty quickly knew that I wasn't interested in that kind of movie, and when I started talking to Mark Duplass about it — and the way he comes at the projects he makes — it

just felt like this could be a really grounded, real story.

And then when we met with Liz Flahive and Jeff Cox, who wrote the script, who have a 3-year-old son and also

just gave birth to a kid literally right before we started production, there's just so much to work with. I hope the movie's funny and I hope the movie's dramatic and works,

but you didn't need to do a lot of legwork on either side to make it feel resonant.

Our feeling was don't push either, let everything happen as realistically as it can, and the drama will be there and the comedy will be there. Also, then, getting guys like Bobby Cannavale who as an actor is always going to play things real while also comedic, it made us try to approach the story as real to the relationships as possible.

Does having a TV background help?

Liz, who has been working on Nurse Jackie for a long time and is now running it, I think, was also a playwright. And Jeff, her husband — he and his brother wrote Blades of Glory, so you knew that you were playing with both. You knew that you had people who were really grounded and were also going to write funny stuff, funny details.

And the supporting cast in this has some prime comedy talent.

We luckily peppered it with talent. Obviously at the core

CANCON FUN

• You seem to love referencing Canadian culture. Do you remember the first time you visited this great land?

When I was a kid I went to summer camp in Maine so whenever we went on an excursion we'd cross over into Quebec. But I also remember my dad taking me to Toronto when I was young and going to the SkyDome. I also remember staring out our hotel window into other buildings specifically looking for people having sex.

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO TORONTO

it's me, Rose and Bobby and the changing alliances with all that. But then every scene is peppered with an all-star. We start with Joel (McHale), we come back to him and we get (Jason) Mantzoukas, we've got Josh Charles, Jane (Krakowski), Julie White, Celia Weston — every scene has this other element that comes in to ruffle feathers.

ROSE BYRNE NICK KROLL BOBBY CANNAVALE JOEL McHALE

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Mike Dojc
For Metro

From the terrace of the Omni Grove Park Inn, patrons can drink in the same alfresco Blue Ridge mountain vistas that beguiled a stream of notable visitors over the past century, from inventor Thomas Edison and author F. Scott Fitzgerald to U.S. President Barack Obama.

In this Asheville, N.C., setting, it seems apropos to pair the soothing surroundings with an oatmeal porter from Highland, Asheville's first post-Prohibition brewery.

For a city of fewer than 100,000 people, in a region once known for illicit whiskey, Asheville is hopping with a veritable bounty of craft beers.

Twenty-one local breweries call the Western North Carolina mountain town home, and new operations are popping up all the time.

As Asheville's beer culture grows, even internationally known craft brewers, such as California's Sierra Nevada and Colorado's New Belgium, are getting in on the action.

It's hard to leave Asheville without gaining a profound passion for hops, tart saisons and winning and wild addi-



The Tasting Room at Highland brewery. HIGHLAND BREWING COMPANY

tives that run the gambit from lavender to jalapenos.

After sipping, slurping and knocking back flight after flight of draught on a four-day tour, here are some to try on your next Asheville beer-crawling adventure.

Thirsty Monk

Bar staff take imbibing religiously at the Monk's trio of Asheville brew pubs. Order a flight and they'll eagerly share their devotion, kindly jotting down aroma, appearance, and taste notes — a handy crib

sheet even regulars appreciate, with taps constantly in flux.

"We never put the same keg on twice in a row. Every time a beer kicks we go put on something different. Last year we served 2,600 different beers," says Chall Gray, Thirsty Monk's vice-president of operations.

Knock one down: CocoNorm is a smooth, easy-to-drink porter made with Belgian yeast and toasted organic coconut.

Urban Orchard Cider

Using freshly pressed juice from orchards just down the

highway in Hendersonville, this West Asheville cidery with a penchant for yeast experimentation uses a quartet of 300-gallon stainless steel fermentation tanks to crank out its artisanal hard ciders.

Knock one down: The Wit Cider is made with hand-crushed toasted coriander with orange juice and zest. "The only sweetness you'll taste is from the orange, the rest has been fermented out," explains Jeff Anderson, Urban Orchard's creative director. "You are left with a very crisp and refreshing

cider, perfect for springtime — bone dry at 7.8 per cent."

Burial Beer

The taproom comes alive on Sundays for weekly jazz brunches where guests graze on New Orleans-inspired dishes and Wednesdays is hops + hoagies, featuring a cured green chorizo with spicy mayonnaise and green onions.

Knock one down: "We are constantly cranking out unique stuff," says Burial Beer co-owner Jessica Reiser. For example, the Garden of Earth-



The view from the Omni Grove Park Inn. CONTRIBUTED

ly Delights Saison, a five per cent saison brewed with golden beets, hibiscus, aged cherries and local ginseng root.

Highland

A tribute to the Scots-Irish who first settled the area, the traditional styles of the British Isles influenced early Highland offerings. Over time, however, Asheville's first craft brewer has grown its flavour profile to include Belgian, German, and innovative American barrel-aged beers.

Knock one down: Cold Mountain, Highland's winter warmer goes on sale in mid-November. "It is not only a unique style, but also is a little bit different every year," explains Highland's founder Oscar Wong. "The beer contains two different base malts and seven specialty malts that do not change."

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Broadway-style shows climb aboard

DISNEY

Cruises ditch cheesy revues for stylish performances

Vawn Himmelsbach
For Metro

Entertainment on cruise ships is often associated with cheesy musical revues, bingo games and line dancing, but lately there's been a push to up the ante.

Disney Cruise Line, for example, has announced its newest stage show, *Tangled: The Musical*, which is being designed for an audience at sea. Slated to premiere Nov. 11 aboard the *Disney Magic*, this will be the first time the tale has been adapted for a stage production.

Original work

"Other cruise lines are doing Broadway-style shows, but ... we're creating original Broadway-style shows," said David Baldree, entertainment producer with Disney Cruise Line, during a sneak peek of the show at its rehearsal space in Toronto earlier this week.

Tangled: The Musical will



feature three new songs created for the show by Academy Award-winning composer Alan Menken; costumes by Tony Award-winning designer Paloma Young; and a new breed of puppetry — for Maximus, the horse in *Tangled* — from master puppet designer Michael Curry, whose creations are best known from Disney's *The Lion's King* on Broadway. "Because Disney has all

these properties, we can create something from the ground up, which is a huge undertaking — workshops in L.A. and New York and casting in Chicago and London," said Gordon Greenberg, the show's director.

"It's a massive operation and, in the end, the payoff is you get something wholly original that you can't see anywhere else."

Developing a show for a cruise ship, as opposed to Broadway or London's West End, provides more creative licence, he added.

'A great playground'

"The biggest difference for me is we have these amazing hydraulics for which I'd have to lobby really long and hard (for) on land," said Greenberg. "It's a great playground."



Tangled: The Musical (left) will premiere in November aboard the Disney Magic cruise ship, marking the first time the animated film has been adapted for the stage.

DISNEY

Choreographer Connor Gallagher (above) is behind the production numbers.

FRANKLIN WHITLACH

+ SHOWS AT SEA

On ships' schedules

• Royal Caribbean is inviting New York aboard with its Broadway at Sea program of Tony Award-winning shows, from *Cats* to *Chicago* The Musical, *Saturday Night Fever* and *Mamma Mia!*

• Norwegian Cruise Line is staging Broadway hits *Burn The Floor* and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (coming in October), as well as a British pop-music entertainment experience called *The Cavern Club*, which imitates the Liverpool venue where the Beatles performed.

VAWN HIMMELSBACH/FOR METRO



The island of Curaçao boasts 35 beaches. CONTRIBUTED

TRAVEL NOTES EXOTIC LOCALES AND DUTCH TREATS

New G Adventure tours

G Adventures has just added eight new trips to its Comfort line of vacation experiences, including holidays to Patagonia, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, East Africa, Central and East-

ern Europe and Belize. These tours allow travellers to fully connect with the local culture and people, and still enjoy a few creature comforts along the way. Visit Gadventures.com.

Non-Stop to Curaçao

Air Canada Vacations has just launched a seasonal, non-stop flight from Toronto to Curaçao, putting you on the Dutch island in five hours. Famous for its multicultural

atmosphere and European architecture, Curaçao has some of the best snorkelling and diving in the world. Flights run until Oct. 22. Visit AirCanadaVacations.com and Curacao.com. DOUG WALLACE

Nature stars in Canada drive

ON THE MOVE

Loren Christie

Relatively cheap gas prices at the pumps and a weak Canadian dollar make a road trip in Canada this summer's go-to vacation. From Trinity to Tofino, here are a few choice routes.

The drive from Banff to Jasper through two of Alberta's national parks along the stunning Icefields Parkway might be the best drive in the country. It offers an incredible mix of Rocky Mountain scenery and wildlife. On a recent trip I saw big horned sheep, more elk than anyone could count and a grizzly bear. Avoid the overwhelming urge to get out of the car to take a

photo. It's a bad idea, these animals are wild. Favourite stops include the Peyto Lake overlook, lunch at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise and an excursion up onto the Athabasca Glacier aboard a Brewster Ice Explorer.

Nova Scotia's Cabot Trail is a personal favourite. It offers stunning scenery, wildlife viewing (whales and moose) and the opportunity to touch the distinct Acadian and Scottish cultures that colour the history of the province. End your day with a fresh seafood meal and kick your heels up at a traditional Celtic party, known as a ceilidh.

Route 132 in Quebec's Gaspé region offers a scenic shore-hugging drive through silver-steepled villages surrounded by mountains and serenaded by the sea. The

route forms a loop of about 900 kilometres. As the seaway widens into the gulf, try some ferry-hopping to explore both coasts of the St. Lawrence River. Take a break from the car and hop aboard a zodiac for some of the country's best whale watching.

The world-renowned Sea-to-Sky highway from Vancouver to Whistler is a great start to a breathtaking British Columbia road trip. The trick is to keep going past Whistler on Highway 99 until you reach Ashcroft and then hook onto the Trans-Canada Highway back to Vancouver. This loop will take you past incredible river gorges and through the only desert in Canada. At the end of your trip, head to Harrison Hot Spring for a soak in a natural hot spring.

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FIFA president boosts women

SOCCER

Longtime chief Sepp Blatter campaigning for re-election

Describing himself as a “god-father” to women’s soccer at FIFA, Sepp Blatter has acknowledged that its appeal still trails behind the men’s game.

Still, the Women’s World Cup kicking off June 6 in Canada can be a “market opener,” the FIFA president told BBC World Service radio in an interview broadcast Thursday.

Blatter challenged the teams in the expanded 24-nation tournament to help achieve that breakthrough by putting on a high-quality show.

“Women’s football must market itself. It’s a product and the product must have quality,” Blatter told the British state broadcaster. “Now it’s up to the ladies in this World Cup to show that



FIFA president Sepp Blatter at a news conference with players and the coach of the Swiss national women's team and FIFA head of women's competitions Tatjana Haenni.

FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

it’s a great event because the television coverage will be done exactly like the FIFA World Cup.”

He recalled that FIFA started focusing on women’s soccer in 1988, when he was its top administrator. The first Women’s World Cup was played in 1991.

In a rare interview during his campaign to win re-election on

May 29, Blatter did not directly address his pursuit of a fifth term in office to extend his 17-year presidential reign.

However, the 79-year-old Swiss did promise to attend the month-long women’s tournament in Canada whatever the election result.

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Serving size: 5

Ingredients

- 1 lb extra-lean ground beef
- ¼ cup dry bread crumbs
- ¼ cup chopped green onion
- 3 Tbsp chopped cilantro or parsley
- 4 Tbsp hoisin sauce, divided
- 2 tsp minced fresh garlic
- 1 tsp minced fresh ginger
- 1 egg
- 2 Tbsp water
- 1 tsp sesame oil

Directions

1. Heat the barbecue to high and spray with cooking oil, or pre-heat the oven to 450°F.

2. Combine the beef, bread

crumbs, green onion, cilantro or parsley, 2 Tbsp of the hoisin sauce, garlic, ginger and egg in a bowl. Mix thoroughly and form into 10 mini burgers.

3. Whisk the water, remaining 2 Tbsp hoisin sauce and sesame oil together in a small bowl.

4. Brush half of the sauce over the burgers.

5. Barbecue, or place on a rack on a baking sheet and bake for 10 to 15 minutes (until no longer pink in the centre). Turn the patties once, halfway through, and brush with the remaining sauce. Serve on mini hamburger buns, if desired, and garnish with sautéed onions.

Nutrition per serving (2 mini burgers)

- Calories 264
- Protein 30g
- Carbohydrates 15 g
- Fibre 2.4 g
- Total fat 7 g

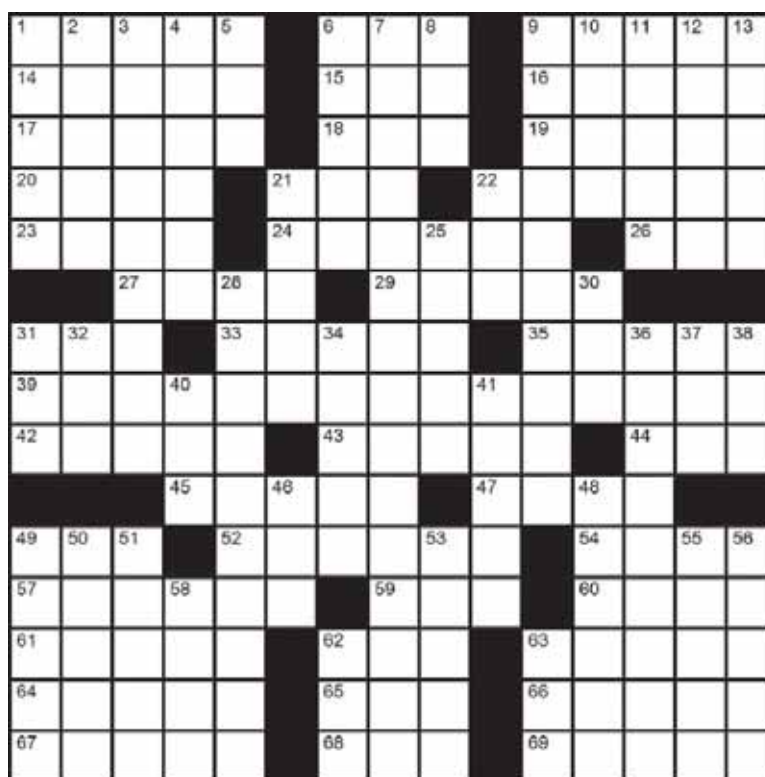
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. "Dancing with the Stars" dance
6. Brand symbols, e.g.
9. Flavour
14. "Easy Livin'" by Heep
15. Diving bird
16. Happen again
17. Ancient Scots
18. Edward Snowden related org.
19. Field
20. Uncommon
21. Knowledgeable letters
22. Tea party offerings
23. Buffalo type
24. Surname of Jessica Simpson's first husband
26. Earlier, olde-style
27. Chop
29. "Mad Men" star Jon, and surnamesakes
31. Li'l life story
33. Carpeting
35. Zing
39. Wild Roses in Alberta: 2 wds.
42. Spruce (Tree in British Columbia)
43. Talent or style
44. Convent dweller
45. Gluck opera: ed Euridice
47. "Flux" (2005)
49. "Senor" suffix
52. Chanel No. 5 = Eau de
54. Pre-stereo
57. (Franken-free food label)
59. Some radio



stations, e.g.
60. Barenaked Ladies song
61. Dugout boat
62. Battery size
63. Upper crust
64. In the Skin of (Novel by Canadian author Michael Ondaatje)

65. Crash Test Dummies song, when repeated
66. Montreal subway
67. Snoozed
68. Anne Shirley's prov.
69. Canadian player for the St. Louis Blues,

Alexander

DOWN

1. Prefix meaning 'Above'
2. 'Parliament' suffix
3. Huge techie corporation
4. Boat, in Boucher-ville

5. Sneeze starters...
6. Ms. Tucker of country
7. Alanis Morissette is its 2015 Canadian inductee: 4 wds.
8. Music style
9. Toronto-born host of "Cityline": 2 wds.
10. Space Museum

of Calgary
11. Vista
12. Guitar gadget
13. Obliterate
21. "The ___" (1989) starring Eric Stoltz
22. School yr. part
25. ___ dozen (Bakery order)
28. Ontario: The Niagara ___
30. Scatter seed
31. "10" (1979) star Ms. Derek's
32. "___ Fell" by The Beatles
34. Canadian journalist Morley
36. ___ Heritage Village (Tourist attraction in Steinbach, Manitoba)
37. 'Dear' lady of a Beatles song, briefly
38. QVC rival in The States
40. Dixie Cups song, when doubled
41. Mr. Neeson's
46. ___ Schwarz (New York City toy store)
48. Morning meal
49. Andes people, once
50. ___ intents and purposes
51. Ms. Lennox
53. Savoury 'fifth taste'
55. Saltpetre
56. Ancient theatre
58. Gwyneth Paltrow's lifestyles website, .com
62. Roadie's haul
63. Bad ___ (German spa resort)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You will need to be on your guard today as someone you work or do business with seems to think you can be easily misled. Check everything you are told, even if it sounds true.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Make the most of Mars in your sign to get things done and let the people you live and work with know that you won't be pushed around. You don't have to be aggressive about it but you do have to protect your interests.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It might be a good idea to take it easy for the next few days, or what passes for easy in the Gemini universe. When Mars moves into your sign early next week there will be no holding you back.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
There seems to be quite a bit of tension in the air at the moment and if you are involved in matters of a joint nature it will pay you to tone down your views and opinions a bit.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
What you want to do and what you have to do are likely to be two entirely different things today. But don't let that depress you because you can still enjoy yourself.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Chances are you will be forced to stay where you are today, even though you would much rather be on the move. That might sound like bad news but the planets indicate it could be a blessing in disguise. Stay home and keep a low profile.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It will pay you to keep your opinions to yourself today, especially on the work front where your know-it-all attitude is unlikely to go down too well. The best way to fall out with powerful people is to make them look stupid.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
A friend or work colleague will say something you disagree with today but if you are smart you will bite your tongue and pass up the chance to make an issue of it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Make sure that everything you do has a purpose today. Despite what you may think to the contrary you do not possess unlimited energy, so ration it carefully, especially on the work front.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Say what you have to say as plainly as possible, so there can be no misunderstandings. That is not, however, an excuse to be rude and does not have to be a martial art!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You of all people should know that personal feelings should never be allowed to interfere with the facts, and the fact of the matter now is that the person who is giving you so much grief is more foolish than malicious. Don't be too hard on them.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Why are you worrying so much? Whatever the reason you need to get over it because there is so much you could be doing with your life now. And remember, even negative events can have positive results.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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